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On the Cetaceans of the Western Coast of North America. By
C. M. Scammon. Edited by Edw. D. Cope.

Thomas Meehan presented some hickory nuts sent by Mr. W. H. Ravenel, of Aiken, South Carolina, supposed to be a hybrid between *Carya olivæformis* and *Carya aquatica*, because they were produced from trees raised from seed of the former which had trees of the latter growing near them; and because the fruit exhibited had the characters of both. Mr. Meehan said that there was a great difference of opinion amongst botanists whether the numerous forms of hickory nuts, so puzzling to botanists who attempted to classify them, were the result of hybridization, or were produced by the plant's own innate power of change by ordinary external circumstances acting on a supposed germ of form. Exact experiments were difficult, on account of the many years it would take to get at the results. He thought this instance furnished by Mr. Ravenel useful, as being one of the nearest he had known to an actual fact that hybridization has some influence on these varying forms.

Prof. Cope exhibited a specimen of the *Heloderma horridum*, of Wiegmann, from Tehuantepec, belonging to the Smithsonian Institution. He stated that the *Heloderma* of the Sonoran region proved, on comparison, to be a different species, differing in the more numerous scales on the head and body, in the shorter tail, and in coloration. He said it had been well figured by Baird in the Mexican boundary survey. He called it *H. suspectum*. He stated that though the lizards of this genus could not be proven to inflict a poisonous bite, yet that the salivary glands of the lower jaw were emptied by an efferent duct which issued at the basis of each tooth, and in such a way that the saliva would be conveyed into the wound by the deep groove of the crown.

March 16th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Twenty-eight members present.

March 23d.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

The death of Jason L. Fenimore was announced.

March 30th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-three members present.

The Report of the Biological and Microscopical Section was read.

The following gentlemen were elected members:

Col. Jas. Greer, of Dayton, Ohio, Dr. Douglas R. Bannan, U. S. N., Geo. Henszey, John Birkinbine.

On favorable report of the Committee, the following paper was ordered to be published:

1869.]